

CHAPTER

XIII. 1808.

Promulgation of the Code of Commerce — Conquests by *Sd*
Threw events in one day.—Recollections— Application of a
line, of Voltaire— Creation of the Imperial nobility.—
Restoration of the university — Aggrandizement of the
Kingdom of Italy at the expnn.se of Home— Cardinal
Caprara's departure from Paris — The interview at KrJFurt.

THK year 1808 was fertile in remarkable events. Occupied as I was with my own duties, I yet employed my leisure hours in observing the course of those great acts by which Bonaparte, seemed determined to mark (ivory day of his life,. At the commencement of 1808 I received one of the first copies of the Code of Commerce, promulgated on the 1st of January by the Kmperor's order. This code appeared to me. an act of mockery ; at least it was extraordinary to publish a code respecting a .subject; which it was the effect of all the Imperial decrees to destroy. What trade could possibly exist under the Continental system, and the ruinous severity of the customs V The line was already extended widely enough when, by a *ft&tiatiiwtmxultc.*, it was still further widened. The Emperor, to whom all the continent submitted, had recourse* to no other formality for the, purpose of annexing to the Empire the towns of Kehl, Cassel near May once, Wenel, and Flushing, with the territories depending on them.¹ These conquests,

¹ A resolution of the Senates or a " SenatuH-consulte," was tlio means invented by Napoleon for altering the Imperial Constitutions, ami even the extent of the Empire. By one of theae, dated 'Jlst January, 1H08, the towns of Kenl, Casse), and Wesol, with Flushing, already Helped, wore definitely united to Francee. The IOHH of Wesol, which belonged to Marat's Orand Duchy of Berg, wan a very HOW point with Murat, who talked of nothing leng than that he would throw himself into the town of Wane) with bin army and defend it. ".lie should see whether the Emperor would havo the face to come and bo.siege him before the eyes of all Europe; and m for himself, he should hold out to the hint extremity. Theso words were all smoke, and end<ul in a line treaty of exchange." *He<* Itaugtiot (tome i. p. *J7(>), who goes on to say thut " this ridiealous little Btrum^le of the Orancel l>uko<Murat) may h'ive contributed somewhat to hin discomfiture in Una affairs of this country (Spain)* Possibly the petty strife raised up by the Marshal for the